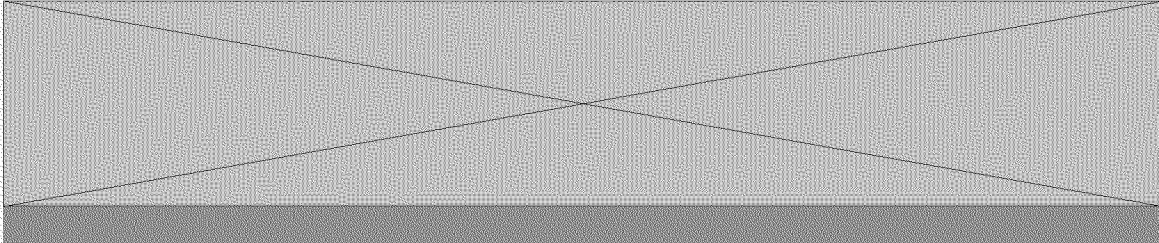


To: Farber, Glenn[Farber.Glenn@epa.gov]
From: Allen West
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 11:11:24 PM
Subject: This Week @ NCPA



[Tax](#)

[Trade](#)

[Health Care](#)

[Energy](#)

[Media](#)

[Washington](#)

[Other](#)

Tax

- The Earned Income Tax Credit already lifts three times as many people out of poverty as a \$15 an hour minimum wage would, according to a [brief analysis](#) by Koch Fellow Joshua Latshaw.

Trade

- U.S. taxpayers guarantee more than \$100 billion in outstanding loans made by the expired Export-Import Bank, [reports](#) research associate Gene Lattus.

Health Care

- Most observers received the latest official actuaries' report on Medicare's finances with complacency, but it shows Medicare devouring the federal government in the years ahead, according to a [Health Alert](#) by NCPA Senior Fellow John Graham.
- People still appear to trust President Obama and the Democrats over Republicans when it comes to health reform despite the continuing unpopularity of Obamacare according to a [Health Alert](#) by NCPA Senior Fellow John Graham.

Energy

- The NCPA completed a nationwide survey of successful anti-fracking activism that is available as a [map](#).

Media

- Europe's decision to lift sanctions will provide Iran an economic boon, allowing them to enrich Hamas and Hezbollah, warned **President/CEO Allen West** in a [Cavuto Coast to Coast](#) interview.
- China's 1.9 percent yuan devaluation is a step towards more market oriented rates, said **Distinguished Fellow Bob McTeer** in a [Forbes](#) commentary.
- America needs a strong leader and a strong statesman - not the winner of another political American Idol, said **West** in an interview with [On the Record with Greta van Susteren](#).
- **Senior Fellow John R. Graham** outlined the important details from the major health insurers' quarterly earnings and merger update in a [Forbes](#) commentary.
- Mental health parity mandates will likely do more to over-treat the affluent than help those truly in need - or to prevent future violence committed by people with severe mental illness, warned **Senior Fellow Devon Herrick** in a [Townhall.com](#) commentary.
- **West** outlined the unlearned lessons from Ferguson, Missouri in a [Townhall.com](#) commentary. The commentary was reprinted by several other sites, including [Konservative Kartel](#) and [Texas Insider](#).
- Medicare has serious fiscal problems, and the complacent response to the latest trustee's report suggests that those problems will once again go unheeded by both the people and politicians, said **Graham** in a [Real Clear Policy](#) op-ed.
- Many people do not value insurance sufficiently to pay their share of heavily subsidies exchange premiums, **Herrick** told [Health Care News](#).
- **Herrick** was also quoted in [Health Care News](#), saying over-the-counter birth control pills would benefit millions of women.
- The travel tax study continued to gain significant coverage, and was featured at over a dozen news sites this week.
- At 50, Medicare is definitely showing its age, said **Herrick** in a [Heartland](#) article.
- NCPA research on the safety and applications of GMOs was featured in a [TH Online](#) article.

Washington Update

The President is at Martha's Vineyard, the Vice President is in South Carolina, Congress is on recess, Washington is basically empty, and my commute has never been better. It is more than a year until the presidential election, but the national policy debate has already entered the political arena. Almost two dozen people are running to be the next President of the United States. Republican voters are trying to narrow their choices and Democrats are desperately trying to expand theirs.

The nation's capital is on vacation but the NCPA is hard at work promoting free-market ideas to grow our *economic security*, develop our *energy security* and protect our *national security*.

Economic security

- Forcing Americans to buy health insurance is a central tenant of Obamacare, although the number of people without health insurance has only dropped by [one-third](#). Increasing the penalties for people without insurance is the only way for Obamacare to [insure more people](#). NCPA Senior Fellow John R. Graham [explains](#) how the individual mandate (among other things) drives Obamacare's disapproval and why all politicians (including Republicans) are blamed for the unpopularity.
- Businesses are [delaying economic activity](#) to see if Congress will repeal the Obamacare tax on people who spend too much on health insurance (the so-called "Cadillac tax").
- The little-noticed House of Representatives [Obamacare lawsuit](#) continues to advance through the legal process. At the core of the lawsuit is whether the President exceeded his executive power, usurping the legislative powers of Congress, to alter the terms of Obamacare's implementation.
- Social Security turns 80 years old today. And like anyone who never planned for the future (octogenarian or otherwise), Social Security is in [deep debt](#). NCPA Senior Fellow Pam Villarreal [explains](#) the latest Social Security Trustees Report.

Energy security

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lawyers are probably the only busy government employees

during the August vacation. More than a dozen states are [asking](#) a federal judge to stay the EPA's emissions standards for power plants. And another dozen states are [asking](#) a federal judge to delay a new EPA rule that gives the federal government authority over streams and ponds.

- EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy [apologized](#) for the environmental disaster that occurred after the EPA allowed millions of gallons of toxic sludge to spill into the Animas River and [flow downstream](#) (so far to Lake Powell, Utah). Affected states are considering a [lawsuit](#) against the EPA while cleanup efforts continue.
- President Obama will [travel to Alaska](#) later this month to talk about climate change. Meanwhile, everyone who knows anything about climate change is looking several thousand miles to the south at the strengthening [El Niño](#) in the Pacific Ocean.
- Rumors are floating around Washington that the Obama Administration may soon reject the [Keystone XL pipeline](#). After that, the options for TransCanada are limited: either reapply for a permit or to seek arbitration. NCPA Research Fellow Lloyd Bentsen IV [explains](#) how the Keystone pipeline will enhance the U.S. energy infrastructure.
- Japan is beginning to [restart](#) their nuclear power system, almost 5 years after the Fukushima disaster.
- [Islamic scholars](#) are adding their voices to [Pope Francis](#) and the [Church of England](#) in asking their followers to make global warming a religious issue.

National security

- As Congress reviews the [Iran nuclear deal](#), all eyes are on the approval/disapproval vote that will happen after Congress returns from recess. The House of Representatives will probably vote on September 10. The Senate will probably postpone their vote until after Rosh Hashanah, which ends on September 15. NCPA President Allen B. West [passionately explains](#) why the Iran deal is a bad deal for America.
- Predictions are [difficult to make](#), but if Congress rejects the Iran deal, the President can still win. After Congress rejects the deal, the President will veto the Congressional resolution of disapproval. If that scenario plays out, President Obama needs at least 34 Senators to support his Iran deal and sustain his veto. If the President's veto is sustained, the Iran deal moves forward in spite of a bipartisan majority in Congress.
- If the Iran deal moves forward, the U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that Iran will begin exporting [600,000 barrels of oil per day](#). Overall, [lifted sanctions](#) will allow \$150 billion to stimulate the Iranian economy---more than the amount of money spent on the [Marshall Plan](#) to revive Europe after World War II (in current dollars).
- Secretary of State John Kerry raised an American flag over the new [U.S. embassy in Cuba](#) today. Meanwhile, Fidel Castro wants the United States to [pay millions of dollars](#) to Cuba. Maybe Castro can get a loan from Iran.

Other

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